

Our Service of Worship for October 10, 2021
28TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*Devotion*”—arr. John Ness Beck

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

** Call to Worship (responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you!

Lord, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

Opening Prayer

** Hymn No. 264: “*When In Our Music God is Glorified*” *

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, we know that you created us in love, to enjoy this world and you, to serve your creation and your children. And yet we know that we do not do your will. With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive. With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty. With feet of clay, we cannot dance in joy or run to help. We ask for your help and your power to change. Open our hands and eyes, move our feet, toward grace and hope and trust in you. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession (*Silent, personal prayers may be offered.*)

Assurance of God’s Love and Mercy (1 John 3:2-3)

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be, has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.” The good news of the gospel is this: all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. As you hold this faith, I declare that you are set free from your sins.

Thanks be to God!

** Gloria Patri (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

** Scripture Readings: *1 Timothy 6:6b-19; Mark 10:17-31* *

Sermon: “*All In*”

A Time of Offering

[No collection will be taken. Please place your offerings in the collection plate just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!]

Invitation

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Lord our God, we acknowledge that you are our Father, we are your children, our neighbors are our brothers and sisters in Christ. To their service and to your glory we dedicate ourselves, our hearts and minds, our wills, wealth and works. Strengthen our resolve to stand fast in your faith, to seek the help of your Holy Spirit, and to work willingly for your perfect kingdom, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem: “*Our Lord Is In This Place*”—Mary McDonald
Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

[During the pause in the prayer, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, offered in unison.]

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

** Hymn No. 391: “*Take My Life*” *

Charge and Benediction

Response: “*Seven-fold Amen*”—John Stainer

Postlude: “*Choral Song*”—Samuel Wesley

Where indicated (**) please rise, and stand as you are able.

**AS OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP ENDS,
OUR MINISTRY OF SERVICE BEGINS!**

Leading Worship This Morning:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi
Pastor

Heather MacPhail
Organist/Music Director

Bruce Smith
Lay Worship Leader

Prayer Requests and Announcements:

- ✚ October West-Fed Food Pantry donations needed: peanut butter, jelly, bars of soap
- ✚ Beth Richmond and Jeri Rathkamp will be available in the Narthex after the service to sign-up volunteers to help at the Flying Pig Expo on October 28. We will carpool from the church at noon that day to work at the Duke Energy Convention Center from 1-4pm. The money we receive—if we have enough volunteers—goes to PW missions!
- ✚ Susan Greenlee has a new grandnephew, Ramsey Cole Grote, born 9/22/21!
- ✚ Prayers are requested for:
 - ♥ The Leistler/Bruggeman families after the death of their father Ken Leistler
 - ♥ Barry Baker of City Gospel Mission, as his son recovers from life-threatening injuries caused in a rock-climbing fall.
 - ♥ Sandy Morris' siblings Melissa Snyder & DJ Hines, who are dealing with chronic health issues
- ✚ The Flowers this morning have been donated by:
 - ♥ The Robert Neal Family in memory of Virginia D. and Robert H. Neal.
 - ♥ Mrs. Raymond Heylman in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bierhorst.

When in Our Music God is Glorified—Hymn #264

1. When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!!
2. How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!
3. So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!
4. Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

Take My Life—Hymn #391

1. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise,
Let them flow in endless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.
4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal Throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

First Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6b-19

⁶ ...there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-31—The Rich Man

¹⁷ As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Moment for Meditation 1—The Rich Man

The rich man in the text was probably born rich...wealth and privilege that was getting in the way of his relationships with God and other people. One crucial aspect remains. “Jesus, looking at him, loved him.” Jesus’ purpose is not to shame or browbeat the young man, but to love him. He calls him to leave his possessions first of all for his *own* benefit, saying, “You will have treasure in heaven; then come follow me.” *We* are the ones who suffer when we let wealth or work cut us off from other people and remove us from relationship with God. The solution is not to try harder to be good, but to accept God’s love; that is, to follow Christ. If we do this, we learn that we can trust God for the things we really need in life, and we don’t need to hold on to our possessions and positions for security.

All of this, in the end, is about possibility: what is possible for us and what is possible for God. Unfortunately we tend to hear our own impossibilities much more loudly than God’s possibilities. We do not need to give up on justice, healing and forgiveness and our participation in them, nor should we. Instead Jesus looks at us with love and asks us to follow a more gentle and more radical way, with the assurance that rather than carrying the weight of the restorer, we are just one of the things being restored.

This is the final thing this story asks us to give up: the belief that we’re capable of achieving perfection and fixing it all on our own, so that we can be invited, like the rich young man, to leave the hurt and anger and self-righteousness, and yes the money and possessions, that we’re clinging to and follow Jesus to a place where the first become last and the last become first, and all of us have enough.

~ Marissa Sotos, Tree of Life Lutheran Church

Moment for Meditation—Did You Know?

During the early 1950s, the Ohio Legislature sponsored a contest to select a state motto. “*With God All Things Are Possible*” became Ohio’s state motto on October 1, 1959. James Mastronardo, a 12-year-old boy, recommended this quotation from the Bible. In 1997, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit against Ohio and its state motto, claiming that this phrase violated the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees religious freedom and a separation of church and state. Various federal courts sided with Ohio, allowing the state to retain the motto. Judges ruled that Ohio’s motto does not endorse a specific god and, thus, was not a violation of the First Amendment. Ohio is one of five states with the word “God” in their mottos.



The Great Seal of Ohio at the Ohio Statehouse

“Imaginization” Exercise

Please take this home with you and when you have a moment, we’d like you to reflect on our congregation as you have known it and experienced it. Then, answer this question: “If our congregation were a plant, animal, object, insect (or something else that comes to mind) what it would be? Describe why. As an example, one woman described her congregation as “a pair of old shoes—too old to be of any use but too comfortable to throw away.” The graphics below will help you “jump start” your creativity. You can use any of them, but you aren’t limited to just those! Please use the space below. If you need more, you may use the back of this sheet. Thank you for your cooperation, this will be helpful to the discernment team as we talk about the future. There will be a drop off box in the narthex next week. We’d like to have them back by October 17. Thank you!

